GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1661
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
SAFETY OF THE RAJASTHAN ATOMIC POWER STATION
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has reviewed the safety status of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-1 (RAPS-1);

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Safety Review Committee for operation plantshas submitted any report in respect of the safety status of any other Atomic Power Stations in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINIST OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) & (b) Rajasthan Atomic Power Station(RAPS) Unit-1 commenced commercial operation in December 1973.The present operating licence [issued by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)] is for 7 Effective Full Power Years (EFPYs) out of which the unit has already seen 6.8 EFPYs. At current level of operations, the operating licence is expected to terminate sometime in April, 2002. The Safety Review Committee of AERB for operating plants has also decided that as a measure of abundant caution, the operation of RAPS-1, in its present condition, willbe allowed only up to 30.04.2002. The shutting down of the plant is due to the expiry of the licence and the requirement of upgradation before application for renewal of the licence by AERB.

(c) & (d) Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants of AERB monitors the safety status of all operating units of the Department of Atomic Energy, including all nuclear power stations on a continuous basis. The committee submits quarterly reports to the Board. These reports are discussed at every meeting of the Board and form an important input to the Board in arriving at regulatory decisions.

The present operating licence in respect of (TAPS 1&2 (a 32 year old plant) is valid till 31.5.2002. The Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants is presently reviewing the safety status of TAPS 1&2 for its continued operations beyond May 2002.